The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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He who loves not his country can love nothing.—Johnson.

WHOLE NO. 1073. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 34.

Right to Work

By WILLIAM GREEN

President of the American Federation of Labor

The following editorial by William Green, interpreting the principle of the right to work adopted by the 1931 convention of the American Federation of Labor, is published in the November issue of the American Federationist:

The Vancouver Convention put a new emphasis on the inalienable right of any American citizen to work. In the decades that have passed since the drafting of the Declaration of Independence changing industrial conditions emphasize the need for the establishment of this right that is basic for human welfare.

Work entitles the individual to the means for sustenance because it is an essential factor in the creation of wealth. Persistent denial of the right to work in effect abrogates the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Under modern economic conditions the right to work—to earn a living—are often not under the control of the individual.

Since he must depend upon others for this right it should be an accepted, recognized, social principle. In order to safeguard voluntary principles while maintaining job security, we do not propose altering the present economic order, but a recognition of the facts involved in it.

Workers employed in a business undertaking make an investment in that undertaking that is just as essential as the capital invested. Labor and management are the partners of those who supply the capital.

Acceptance of this fact entails recognition of the equities of these partners and provisions to secure their rights. For the wage-earner, the major equity is job security—the obligation of the establishment to continue to provide employment or to make an adjustment with the worker based upon recognition of his equities.

Our industries have been accustomed to hire large numbers of workers by the day and to lay them off at convenience. Labor submits that industries must be required to do longer range planning. They must be prepared to hire workers for a definite time and to met the equities of workers growing out of such work contracts.

The right to work implies a legal right to income from the industrial undertaking that has enrolled the worker as a member of its producing staff.

Recognition of the right to work will stabilize industrial planning and put greater stability into the lives of millions of wage-earners.

German Capitalists True to Type

The speeches of Dr. Fritz Thyssen, chairman of the United Steel Works of Germany, and Dr. C. F. von Siemens, chairman of the Siemens-Halske Works of Berlin, before the major industries conference at Columbia University, New York, confirmed the belief of forward looking economists that the outstanding owners of industry in every country are deaf, dumb, and blind to the just demands of Labor.

In Germany the trade union movement, in addition to pressing for higher wages as the direct method of securing a more equitable share of the wealth which is largely produced by the Labor, has made use of its political strength through the Social Democratic Party to extend the social services, consisting of sick and life insurance, old-age pensions, unemployment insurance and similar institutions, which in Europe are regarded as the legitimate functions of the State.

But Dr. Thyssen, thinking in the terms of profits as the major function of an industrial system, declared that one of the necessary things to bring about the security of Germany was the abolition of her social services. These services, he said, had been imposed on Germany by the German Socialists and trade unions and were costing Germany 45 per cent of her national income.

He neglected to state the well-known fact that the major part of the national income is produced by the workers both in and out of the trade unions, and that therefore it is perfectly equitable for a large portion of the income to go to the masses of the people in social services which minister to the welfare of all.

Dr. von Siemens took a different method of assaulting German Labor. He attacked the theory that the secure way to keep prosperity or bring it back when lost is to maintain high wages and thus increase the purchasing power of the people. On the contrary, he favored cutting wages and expressed the belief that lower wages would enable the employers to employ a larger number of workers.

The views of Dr. Thyssen and Dr. von Siemens are reflected in the United States by those reactionaries who hold that wages should be reduced to the point where they will be accepted by workers threatened with starvation.

Miss Frances Perkins, industrial commissioner of the State of New York, in her testimony before the Senate Committee considering unemployment insurance, confirmed this statement when she declared that in New York employers were forcing wages down to the lowest possible point and were offering stenographers $7, $9 and $10 a week.

Employers throughout the industrial countries of the world are organized in compact national conspiracies to reduce wages to the subsistence point.

Strong, vigorous, militant trade unions are the only force able to lessen the strength of this unpatriotic drive against decent living standards for those without whose brain and brawn there would be no wealth produced.

BANKS PROLONG CRISIS WITH WAGE CUT POLICY

"There is reason to believe that this depression is being prolonged by failure of credit," says G. M. Bugniazet, president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Operators, in an editorial in the official journal of that organization on recent wage cuts by the big steel corporations.

"No agency can step in and give the business system the proper push to drive it on again," Bugniazet continues. "This acceleration is a banking function, and a public function, but the banks are in the hands of private interests, whose sole purpose is to make money, not to start business at some sacrifice to themselves.

"The only course that occurs to bankers to get business started is through wage cuts. This will inevitably prolong the depression, for what is needed is to get money into circulation, not to take it out in the form of dividend reserves.

"The banker strategists operate on the theory that people are hoarding money. The real truth is there is little money to spend, let alone to hoard. The business system is starving for want of capital, while the banks bulge with coin."

BUSINESS MEN WARNED TO REMOLD CAPITALISM

New York, Oct. 31.—Owners of industry were warned to remold the capitalist system in the public interest for their own protection by W. W. Nichols of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee in an address to the Steel Founders Society of America at their monthly meeting here.

"Ours is a big part in this social upheaval and woe to us if we do not play our part well," he said.

"The present depression with its widespread misery has disclosed defects so vast as to impugn the claims of our capitalist theories, and it behooves us now more than ever to change. Even communism may have some features, hidden from our prejudiced grasp, worthy of emulation."

Mr. Nichols's elaboration of his thesis of danger for the capitalists disclosed that his reforms were largely concerned with the interrelations of groups of business men organized for profit to the exclusion of such elemental justice for the workers as the shorter work day and a more liberal share of the earnings of industry.

The Founders did not pale at his predictions.

HOSIERY STRIKERS WIN UNION SHOP

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 31.—The four weeks' strike of 1,600 employes of the Phoenix Hosiery Co., who walked out against a drastic wage reduction, ended in the workers accepting a wage cut in exchange for 100 per cent unionization of the plant.

The contract, known as the national labor agreement, is between the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers and the National Association of Full Fashioned Hosiery Manufacturers' Association, Inc.

The Phoenix Co. is one of the largest hosiery companies manufacturing full fashioned hosiery. Its inclusion in the national agreement, according to national union officers, will assist greatly in lining up other firms.

Automatic Unionism

Under the agreement the seven sections of the mill directly connected with full fashioned knitting became automatically 100 per cent unionized with the check-off for payment of union dues.

In four other departments the agreement grants the union the right to send responsible representatives into the mill at noon hours to solicit membership from those who did not join the strike.

No Profits for Year

The Phoenix Company agrees to forego profits for the life of the contract, which is until September 21, 1932. At the end of the fiscal year, wages are to be returned to preagreement levels. If the firm fails to do this, the contract provides that it shall open its books to inspection by a competent commission representing the union and the firm.

Wages Not Specified

It is understood that after Phoenix wages are leveled up and shaved to bring about an adjustment with eastern rates, the average 37 per cent wage reduction agreed to by the national union will be applied here.

The agreement was signed by Emil Rieve, president of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, and Parker Margeson, representing the firm.

Commenting on the settlement, Rieve said: "This agreement on the part of the workers means more than merely a labor agreement. It is a move that, we hope, will bring about the stabilization of the industry. It provides for the arbitration of all major disputes, which means there can be no more strikes, lockouts or boycotts of any kind during the lifetime of the agreement."

Share Work Among All Jobless Declares Hoover's Relief Group

Washington, Oct. 31.—Further "sharing" of employment by industrial and civil service employers alike was recommended by the Committee on Employment Plans and Suggestions of the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief as one of the most practical means of stimulating employment.

The Committee reaffirmed its previous declaration that more buying must precede business improvement, and criticized many industrial organizations for not having done their part in spreading work as much as possible.

The Committee declared that the "white collar" class has not been given adequate consideration, asserted that civil service employes should not be exempted from assisting in making work available, and insisted that a "new concept of work" must be put into use.

Strengthening public confidence in our financial and credit structure was emphasized as the major thing necessary to open new sources of employment and thus stimulate normal buying.

The Committee praised the creation of the National Credit Corporation and urged bankers to supplement it by more liberality in giving credit to their customers.

Spreading available work in industrial, commercial and professional enterprises is the most fruitful field for immediate relief of unemployment, the Committee declared, but added that there is "abundant evidence" that some proportion of the Nation's employers have not made efforts to distribute work at their disposal.

Warning is given, however, that there are distressing instances where "gross injustices" have been perpetrated on workers in the interest of economy.

The Committee points out that the large group of workers coming under civil service regulations have not been forced to share their burden proportionately and that the size of this labor group has increased during the depression. "This public employment category should be the first to recognize voluntarily their responsibility in the general plan," the Committee asserts.

Advocating a new conception of "work," the Committee advises that preference be given equally-efficient workers to married men with dependents, single persons with dependents and single persons without other means of support.

Such action would bring about "widest possible distribution of employment income," the Committee points out, adding that especially in the civil service field are working wives, sons, and daughters whose incomes are not absolutely necessary.

The chairman of the Committee on Employment Plans and Suggestions is Harry A. Wheeler of Chicago. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is a member.

LUMBER COMPANY SELLS JOBLESS FOOD ON CREDIT

Exploit the workers to the limit while they are employed.

Lay them off without pay when the business "efficiency" of the employers reveals itself to be business inefficiency.

Tie them to the plant during periods of unemployment by selling them food rations to be paid for when the employers are ready to exploit them again.

This is the remarkable experiment in industrial feudalism applied by the Gilchrist-Fordney Lumber Company at its mills in Wisconsin and Mississippi and reported with seeming approval by the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association.

In giving a detailed account of this novel "unemployment relief" plan the American Lumberman says:

"To secure the essential information regarding each employe, a questionnaire was used and then the men were told that they could draw on the company for the supplies involved in the food ration each two weeks.

"It was made quite clear to the employes that this was not a form of charity, but that the cost of the supplies would be charged to each employe and he would be expected to pay for them when the mill reopened and he went back to work.

"That the plan was entirely satisfactory was shown in the fact that no complaint was made during the entire period by any employe. In fact, some of them requested that they be permitted to continue on the ration after resuming work, as they found that they could live more economically than had been the case in the past while employed.

"The cost per month of supplying this ration was as low as $2.35, based on current prices.

"The Gilchrist-Fordney mill was closed just before Christmas, 1930, and was idle for five months.

"A striking feature of this rationing plan was that at the end of the five months every employe, with two exceptions, returned to employment. One of these did not return because he was in jail.

"Up to August 1 more than 80 per cent of these food bills had been repaid by the employes."

PENNSY CLERKS TAKE TIME OFF WITHOUT PAY

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 31.—Clerical workers on the central and western regions of the Pennsylvania Railroad agreed to take two additional days off each month without pay at conferences between railroad officials and representatives of the Clerical Employes' Association of the two regions.

Employes have been off two days a month without pay since July. This agreement brings the layoff without pay up to four days a month.

Officials of the Association said the agreement was made to protect the jobs of their members. It is believed the four-day layoff will keep all the clerks on the pay roll.

Wages were not considered, as the management is not permitted under the railroad labor act to make wage cuts of union employes without their voluntary consent.

INT'L HARVESTER CUTS WAGES ON 4-DAY WEEK

Chicago, Oct. 31.—Officials of the International Harvester Company reduced simultaneously the prices of the company's products and the wages of the workers who make the products. The amount of the wage cut was not made public.

For some time company officials have permitted employes to work only three days a week. With the wage cut the work week was increased to four days. Alexander Legge, president, said he believed the price cut will stimulate sales so that the weekly earnings of employes under the wage rate cut and the four-day week will at least equal and perhaps exceed their earnings under the higher wage rate and the three-day week.

Legge was formerly chairman of the Federal Farm Board, which was established by Congress at the demand of President Hoover to secure for the farmers a reasonable price for their products.

Legge told the farmers they should restrict their output and thus raise prices.

In his own business he cuts prices and then takes the cut out of his employes by reducing their wage rates and telling them if they will work four days instead of three they will earn as much as formerly.

N. Y. COURT UPHOLDS MODEL HOUSING LAW

New York, Oct. 31.—Justice John E. McGeehan of the Bronx County Supreme Court rendered a decision upholding the constitutionality of the State's model housing law which permits tax exemption of model tenements constructed by limited dividend companies under plans approved by the State Board of Housing.

The law was enacted to provide more adequate housing facilities for families forced to live in buildings with low rentals. The State Board of Housing is authorized to decide what sections of the city need living quarters under the plan limiting returns on the investment to 6 per cent per annum and fixing low maximum rental levels.

READING STORE GIVES 5-DAY WEEK TO 1,200

Reading, Pa., Oct. 31.—Pomeroy's, Inc., Reading's largest department store, with branch stores in Reading, Harrisburg, Pottsville and Wilkes-Barre, placed all its 1,200 workers on the five-day week.

The employes will work five days for the same pay they formerly earned in six days, while the total hours of work will be reduced from an average of 45½ to 42 hours.

Edward Fisher, manager of the Reading store, said that Pomeroy "took this step because he believes 'the five-day working week for both industry and retail business is just around the corner.'"

STARVE IN MIDST OF PLENTY

Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 31.—"Men are asking themselves whether they are longer bound to support an order of things in which their children must starve in the midst of plenty," declared Rev. Dr. Frank D. Adams, in his annual address as president of the Universalist general convention at Buffalo. He asserted that "the only power capable of saving civilization and perpetuating the institutions upon which any decent order of things can stand is religion."

BIG BUSINESS OPPOSES FARMERS' MARKETING PLAN

Chicago, Oct. 31.—James C. Stone, chairman of the Federal Farm Board, told the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers that big business critics of the Board whose slogan is "Take the Government out of business" were "carrying on false propaganda," while trying to prevent farmers from seeking an equality with other industries in marketing their products.

"Most of these people," he asserted, "are now enjoying aid of one kind or another from the Government, and they now rise up to object to the same assistance being given to the farmer, who has just been taken in.

"I am certain that the Farm Board and farmers generally will not object to taking the Government out of business if Government aid is to be taken away from everybody alike," he added. "But I am also certain that they will not consent to being singled out alone for such treatment."

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Ottawa, Canada.—Unemployment relief projects involving a Federal government contribution of $6,000,000 was approved by the Cabinet of the Canadian Government.

Nanuet, N. Y.—Nine Democratic candidates for State and county offices in Rickland County voted to donate, if elected, 10 per cent of their salaries to an unemployment relief fund.

MICHIGAN MANUFACTURERS PUT LABOR ON 3-DAY WEEK

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 31.—Reducing the workers' standard of living by part time work is the only help for unemployment which the employers of Michigan can offer during the coming Winter, according to John L. Lovett, general manager of the Michigan Manufacturers' Association. This is Mr. Lovett's interpretation of the sharing-work plan of President Hoover's Organization for the Relief of Unemployment.

If the automobile business warrants it, Mr. Lovett says, the automobile manufacturers will operate their factories six days a week and give each employe three days work out of six. He says this plan will assure half time work for around 300,000 men during the Winter. He added that the manufacturers by this plan expected to parcel out the available jobs so that every family will have one employed member at least on part time work.

"That means," said Mr. Lovett, "that Michigan workers may have to accept a lower pay check than now, as long as the demand for manufactured goods continues on its present level, but it also means that every family will have at least one bread winner on the pay roll."

IDLE HOME OWNERS GIVEN MORTGAGE MORATORIUM

Geneva, N. Y., Oct. 31.—The New York State Savings and Loan Associations at their annual conference here voted to declare a moratorium on all mortgages on homes whose unemployed owners are paying for them through loan associations and are unable to meet the payments.

George L. Bliss of New York, president of the association, said all members had pledged themselves to protect these homes to the limit of their ability.

SWIFT'S EMPLOYE VIOLATES WOMEN'S 9-HOUR DAY LAW

New Orleans, La., Oct. 31.—An employe of Swift and Company, meat packers here, was convicted for violation of State laws prohibiting the working of women more than nine hours a day.

1,500,000 IDLE IN N. Y. WAGES CUT 37 PER CENT

Washington, Oct. 31.—Utilizing for their own selfish ends the existence of an enormous jobless army, employers in New York have not only reduced wages far below the decrease in the cost of living but have established the policy of driving wages down and down to the lowest point at which hungry workers will consent to work to save themselves from starvation.

This was the significant conclusion drawn from the testimony given by Miss Frances Perkins, industrial commissioner of New York, before the La Follette subcommittee on economic planning of the Senate Committee on Manufactures.

Miss Perkins estimated that 750,000 persons are out of work in New York City and 1,500,000 in the State.

She said that in New York City one out of every four workers is unemployed, that at least 160,000 persons have reached the limit of their resources, and that 80,000 jobless persons are heads of families or have dependents.

Pay Rolls Cut 37 Per Cent

Miss Perkins declared that employers in the manufacturing industries had cut pay rolls $1,600,000,000 during the last two years, which amounts to a 37 per cent decline. She said this meant a "very impressive and significant loss to the whole community in spending power."

Wage Cuts Lower Living Standards

In discussing the lowered living standards which employers in New York have forced on the workers by slashing wage payments $800,000 a year for the last two years, Miss Perkins said:

"Hospitals are complaining of the increased amount of out-patient work, even though there have been no great epidemics. Physicians say they were never so busy, nor have they collected so small a proportion of their fees.

"Tenement housing, which seemed to have been abandoned two years ago, is increasing. The tendency is for two or three families to occupy four or five-room apartments.

Wage Cuts Exceed Cost-of-Living Cuts

"One of the most depressing things is the number of men who don't want to write home until they have some money to spend.

"The cost of living has gone down, but nothing in proportion to wage reductions.

"Stenographers are offered $7, $9 and $10 per week.

"There is a tendency to put wages down just as low as the traffic will bear."

SIX-HOUR DAY FOR R-K-O

Culver City, Calif., Oct. 31.—A six-hour day was placed in effect in the construction department of the R-K-O-Pathe studios here as a precedent in the motion picture industry.

Dave Garber, superintendent of construction, said it would allow the employment of 20 per cent more men. The force is now operated in two shifts, which commence work at 8 a. m. and 2:30 p. m., each with half an hour off for one meal.

"This plan not only provides employment for more men," said Garber, "but allows the workers added time for leisure and recreation."

271 METAL MINERS KILLED; 15,594 INJURED

Washington, Oct. 31.—Two hundred and seventy-one miners were killed in the metal mines of the United States during 1930 and 15,594 suffered non-fatal injuries in a total of 103,233 men employed, according to figures made public by the U. S. Bureau of Mines, on the basis of reports submitted by operating companies. The corresponding record for the preceding year included 350 deaths and 23,092 injuries, each injury involving disability for more than the remainder of the day of the accident.

The death rate per 1,000 employes in 1930 was 2.92 as compared with 3.03 in 1929. The non-fatal injury rate was 167.86 per 1,000 in 1930 as compared with 200.11 in 1929.

"It should be explained," the Bureau says, "that the figures cover not only metal mines, but also mines which produced non-metallic minerals other than coal. These non-metal mines employed 10,562 men, which number is included in the total of 103,233 shown for all mines."

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HITS SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Canberra, Australia, Oct. 31.—Prime Minister Scullin issued an ultimatum to seamen at Sydney who struck because the owner of one steamer discharged a fireman because of his alleged undesirability. The strike tied up several ships.

Scullin pledged the support of the Commonwealth Government to the State Government of New South Wales, and the Parliamentary Opposition approved full State protection for non-union men who wished to work on the ships.

In Sydney, Sir Eric Campbell, leader of the New Guard, which claims 100,000 members, offered to man the idle steamers with volunteer labor or to protect any volunteers engaged by the shipowners.

UNION LABOR LIFE WRITES FAMILY INCOME POLICY

New York, Oct. 31.—A family income rider is now being attached to the policies of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, it was announced by Matthew Woll, president.

Under the new plan a cash payment of 20 per cent of the face amount of the policy will be made to the beneficiary immediately upon death. In addition, a monthly income of $10 per $1,000 will be paid to the family for ten, fifteen or twenty years from the date on which the policy was taken out, as provided by the insured.

At the expiration of the family-income program the full amount of the policy will be paid. The extra premiums will remain constant for the first five years and then decline steadily until they vanish at the end of the family-income period.

METAL MINE OPERATORS FIRED 15,500 MINERS IN 1930

Washington, Oct. 31.—The owners of the metal mines of the United States threw around 15,500 metal miners into the army of the unemployed in 1930, according to reports made to the U. S. Bureau of Mines by the operating companies. The reports show that 103,233 men were employed in the mines in 1930. The companies say that this was a reduction of 13 per cent from the number employed in 1929.

Cost of Living Down 15 Per Cent; Wage Payments Cut 40 Per Cent

The low wage destroyers of our American living standards keep up their propaganda that wages should be reduced because the cost of living has gone down.

Slave-Labor Wage Theory

This is the old slave-labor theory of wages.

The slave owner provided his slaves with a living. If the price of the living went up, it cost him more for his labor; if it went down, it cost him less. The slave owner profited by variations downward.

Cost-of-living-wage employers took over the slave-labor cost of living theory and have persistently endeavored to use it as their basis for fixing wages under our free-labor system.

Workers' Living Cost Falls 15 Per Cent

The tangible basis for this reactionery theory was recently knocked under the ropes by Ethelbert Stewart, Commissioner of Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, with figures comparing the decrease in the workers' cost of living since 1925 with the decrease in the workers' wages for the same period.

Commissioner Stewart pointed out that during the period between December, 1925, and June, 1921, the merchants, landlords, and other dealers in the workers' necessaries of life reduced the price of them about 15 per cent.

Wage Payments Cut 40 Per Cent

But during this same period employers in the manufacturing industries alone reduced the total amount paid the workers in wages almost 40 per cent.

"This decrease of 40 per cent in pay roll," the Commissioner explained, "does not mean, of course, that individual wage rates were cut in such proportion. Most of the decline was due to the discharge of employes, to the prorating of jobs, and to short-time work.

"But it does mean that the income and consequently the purchasing power of employes in manufacturing industries as a whole was less by 40 per cent than it was in 1925, as the widespread character of the depression leaves no reason to believe that workers dropped or prorated in manufacturing industries could obtain jobs elsewhere."

Merchants Confiscate Price Decreases

Commissioner Stewart also points out the significant fact that merchants capture for themselves a large portion of the decreased prices of commodities by not passing them along to the consumers, of whom the wage earners constitute a very large percentage.

From December, 1925, to June, 1931, he says, the purchasing power of the wholesalers' dollar increased 48 cents, while the purchasing power of the wage earners' dollar, which he calls the "cost-of-living" dollar, increased only 18 cents. This means that wholesalers and retailers combined swiped 28 cents out of a total of 48 cents of the reduction in the factory price of the articles making up the workers' living.

Workers' Net Loss 30 Per Cent

"Meanwhile," continues Commissioner Stewart, "as the number of dollars which the workers, at least those in the manufacturing industries, had to spend had shrunk, as noted, by some 40 per cent, the workers attached to manufacturing industries, taken as a whole, had suffered far more from declining pay rolls than they gained from lower prices on the things they had to buy.

"Similar detailed information for other groups of industrial workers is not available, but such as is available indicates that the situation of most other groups of workers has been little if any better than manufacturing."

Some Articles Cost More

The cost-of-living wage propagandists rely largely on the reduction in the price of food products, which have fallen 38 per cent.

But while food is the largest single item in the worker's budget, it represents only 38 per cent of his expenditures. Other necessaries have not declined nearly as much. Indeed, such things as street car fares and doctors' fees, representing 21 per cent of the expenditure of the average worker's family, were actually higher in 1931 than in December, 1925.

"Stated in another way," Commissioner Stewart concludes, "the change in the cost of living of the family, as between December, 1925, and June, 1931, was:

"Food decreased 28.5 per cent, clothing decreased 13.8 per cent, decreased 15 per cent, fuel and light decreased 11.5 per cent, house furnishing goods decreased 17.4 per cent, miscellaneous items increased 1.5 per cent.

"The weighted average decrease of all items was 15.5 per cent."

Cost-of-Living Theory Smashed

The Government's statistics show that the dealers in the necessaries of life that make up the workers' living decreased the price of them 15 per cent since 1925.

The statistics also show that the owners of our industrial establishments cut same period.

wage payments 40 per cent during the

This does not leave much ground for the cost-of-living wage propagandists to stand on.

FIVE GERMAN STOKERS JAILED FOR STRIKING

Kiel, Germany, Oct. 31.—Five stokers of the German freighter Asta were sentenced to two months in jail for participating in a strike in Russian ports recently.

The strikers were convicted by a special court which is working 24 hours a day in three shifts to try 120 sailors for going on the strike, tying up 41 German vessels.

$15,000,000 JOBLESS FUND VOTED IN N. Y. CITY

New York, Oct. 31.—The Board of Estimates of New York City voted $15,000,000 for unemployment relief.

It is estimated the fund will take care of 100,000 families until June 1.

The money will be provided by the issuance of special bonds authorized under State relief legislation, to be reimbursed by the State from the $20,000,000 relief fund voted by the Legislature. The fund will be administered by a commission appointed by the Mayor.

A recommendation that relief should only be supplied to those who can show that they have voted in the city for the last two years was abandoned. All those in real need will receive assistance. The only requirement of applicants will be to show that they are residents of the city.

SHORTER HOURS FOR JOBLESS RELIEF

By CHAS. F. HOHMANN,

Editor of the Bakers' Journal, the official Organ of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union of America.

The increase of labor-saving machinery and the process of mass production have made the problem of unemployment one of ever-increasing social importance. The productivity of man has increased rapidly in the last decade with no corresponding increase in income per man. Nor has there been any marked reduction in the hours of labor. Organized labor has offered for a permanent solution of the unemployment situation the shortening of the work week to five days of six hours each.

20 WORKERS PER 1,000 TAKEN FROM PAY ROLLS

Washington, Oct. 31.—Figures on labor turnover made public by the U. S. Department of Labor show that employers are removing large numbers of workers from their pay rolls despite the policy of maintaining employment urged by President Hoover through his Organization on Unemployment Relief.

During August employers in the manufacturing industries discharged or laid off 5.62 workers in every hundred and hired only 3.58, leaving a net removal from pay rolls of 2.04 workers out of every 100 employed.

In explanation of their adding this large number to the already stupendous army of the unemployed, employers declare that their business "efficiency" is so inefficient that they cannot find a profitable market for the products which labor produces. So their pig-headed individualism prompts them to reduce the market still further by throwing 35 employes out of every 1,000 into the workless army, and thus destroy their purchasing power.

$120,000,000 JOBLESS WORK FUND IN FRANCE

Paris, Oct. 31.—A program of public improvements calling for an appropriation of $120,000,000 for the relief of unemployment has been adopted by the French Cabinet. The Finance Minister will submit the program to the Chamber of Deputies as soon as it convenes.

The program includes the improvement and modernization of ports, improvement and operation of river navigation, construction of new and modern hospitals, electrification of provincial regions, improvement of public school system, development and expansion of civil aviation, establishment of a large colonial college, expansion of State-controlled thermal stations and watering places, and extension of physical education.

On the first of September of this year there were five times as many workers on the live unemployment register as last year.

Jobless Increase in All Nations International Labor Office Says

Geneva, Switzerland, Oct. 31.—Unemployment in the industrial countries is rapidly increasing.

The coming Winter will be the worst one for the jobless since the war.

This is the conclusion reached in an official resume of the industrial situation completed by the International Labor Office.

"There is no sign as yet," says the official report to the governing body, which will meet shortly to consider various proposals for international cooperation dealing with employment, "of the end of the depression which is throwing tens of millions out of work throughout the world.

"On the contrary, information to hand shows the evil, which scarcely improved at all during the Summer, is tending to become worse.

"It is, as a rule, only in September that in most countries seasonal influences which tend to increase unemployment during the Winter make themselves felt. This year, however, from July onward, the situation has become worse from month to month."

The actual situation is revealed by official statistics from the various governments.

In Germany the number of jobless officially registered was 4,104,000 at the beginning of September as compared with 2,885,500 on the same date of 1930.

In Italy the officially registered jobless have increased nearly 50 per cent in the last 12 months. Government relief is being given to 693,273 registered workers by the Fascists, but inasmuch as only politically acceptable persons are registered, the actual number of jobless is estimated to be twice that number.

In Great Britain official figures show 2,142,821 insured workers wholly unemployed as against 1,500,000 a year ago, and 670,342 partially employed against 618,658 last year.

In France the registered unemployed is five times as large as last year, in Holland the number has doubled, in Sweden the number of jobless has increased 70 per cent, in Norway 45 per cent, in Denmark 25 per cent, in Hungary 30 per cent.

Czechoslovakia reports three times as many workers supported by the Government as last year, and Poland reports 251,608 jobless compared with 173,627 last year.

In Belgium the wholly unemployed receiving Government relief has doubled during the year, while the intermittently unemployed increased from 48,580 to 113,823.

Switzerland reported 18,506 registered unemployed in August.

New Zealand reports 47,203 persons registered as unemployed at the public labor exchanges at the end of July compared with 17,556 at the end of January.

In Australia, out of 430,000 trade union members, 118,424 were out of work at the end of June as against 80,595 at the end of June, 1930.

Canada reports 16.2 per cent of trade union members unemployed at the end of July compared with 9.2 per cent a year ago.

Austria reports 196,325 persons in receipt of unemployment benefits against 163,906 in September, 1930.

"The figures which the International Labor Office has to hand," the report states, "do not enable comparison to be made as between countries. Some states give the number of unemployed in receipt of benefit, others the number of workless registered. As in several countries many unemployed persons are neither in receipt of benefit nor registered, the statistics often underestimate the real figures. Subject to these reservations these figures are submitted."